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NATIONAL FOREIGN ASSESSMENT CENTER

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

ODP # 81-222

17 FEB 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Agency Information Handling Architect

SUBJECT : Recommendation for STAP Assistance on ADP Organization ☐

REFERENCE : Information Handling Study-80, CIA Information Handling Task Force, 5 September 1980 ☐

1. As you are aware, the Executive Committee has recently approved some recommendations of the referenced report which have far-reaching organizational implications for CIA. We believe that these implications should be examined closely from the user point of view. ☐

2. Therefore, NFAC has been considering the advisability of requesting an independent look at the proper division of functional responsibility between CIA ADP services groups and the ADP user. We had intended to ask the Director's Science and Technology Advisory Panel (STAP) to undertake such a study. STAP's membership includes persons having a broad range of understanding of major ADP issues as well as an excellent understanding of the intelligence community. We think that STAP could provide some valuable insight on this issue. ☐

3. We believe that it would be inappropriate for us to request such a study independently of your office. The charter which you have been given clearly includes the responsibility for making recommendations as to functional responsibilities for ADP. Nevertheless, we regard it as important to our needs that such a study be done; and given the complexity and controversial nature of this issue, we believe that it would be desirable to have as many independent inputs as possible. ☐

4. Therefore, we recommend that you request STAP to review the referenced Information Handling Study and, from its knowledge of ADP technology and related personnel trends, to recommend an appropriate division of functional responsibilities between the NFAC ADP users and the Agency information handling services groups.

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To the extent possible, STAP should also identify the implications of such a functional breakdown on user personnel staffing, ADP budgeting, and organizational control. Because of the complexity of the scientific and technical analysis problem, and the critical ADP support shortfalls which we face in that area, we recommend that the scientific and technical analysis area be a primary focus of STAP efforts. We request that such a study be completed as soon as possible.



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Deputy Director

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